HMM.
DOES THAT DRESS SAY "BEAUTIFUL WOMAN" MORE THAN THIS ENSEMBLE?
I COULD TRY PUTTING MY HAIR UP...
MAYUMI-CHAN, YOU LOOK WONDERFUL.
WHY ARE YOU GETTING ALL DRESSED UP?
ARE YOU GOING TO A MIXER?

MAYAHARU RURI

SMILE
にこっ
I'M SEEING A GOOD FEMALE FRIEND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE.
I'M SUPER-EXCITED.
YOU'RE TRYING TO GAIN THE UPPER HAND ON HER, AREN'T YOU?
BY "GOOD," YOU MEAN...
WHAT IT MEANS! WE'VE BEEN GOOD FRIENDS SINCE HIGH SCHOOL!
SHE'S SUPER NICE!
KAZUMI
WHY WOULD YOU EXCLUDE THAT?
EXCLUDING THE FACT THAT SHE'S GETTING MARRIED IN TWO MONTHS.
SHE SAID SHE NEEDED A FAVOR, SO WE DECIDED TO GO GET DRINKS.
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU DID MENTION YOUR FRIEND GOT ENGAGED.

MAYUMI'S BRAIN
まゆみ脳
CELE-BRATE
CURSE
MY BRAIN IS BASICALLY IN TOTAL CELEB-RATION MODE.
THERE'S A HORRIFYING ERROR MIXED IN.
THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL THE MARGIN OF ERROR. IT'S JUST 1/25TH OF THE THOUGHTS IN MY BRAIN.
BUT...
WHEN SHE BRAGS ABOUT HER FIANCE OVER THE PHONE OR ON LINE...
...ERRORS REALLY DO START HAPPEN-ING...
BUT JUST A COUPLE.
CHANGE!
CHANGE!
MAYUMI-SAN, I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR BRAIN WORKED LIKE PANEL QUIZ.
THE CURSES TOTALLY HAVE THE UPPER HAND!
THEY'RE TAKING ALL THE CORNERS
BUT I DON'T LIKE FEELING THAT WAY!
CLENCH
ぎゅ…
ホントに仲よしだから
BECAUSE WE REALLY ARE FRIENDS
THAT'S WHY I'M WORKING HARD TO MAKE MYSELF A BETTER WOMAN, SO I CAN BEHAVE MYSELFWHEN I GO TO SEE HER.

HAVING THE RABBLE AT THE BEACH FAWN OVER ME WAS ALL PART OF MY PLAN.
WHAT AN AWFUL SCHEME.
BESIDES, TODAY...
MANAMI WILL BE COMING, TOO.
I RECOGNIZE THAT NAME...
WHO IS SHE?
OH!

CURSE
THE REASON SHE CAME IN SECOND PLACE FOR YEARS AS A STUDENT!
MAYUMI-SAN'S UNBEATABLE RIVAL!

SHIRO-KUN, YOU LOOKED GOOD IN YOUR SUIT.
I MET HER WHEN I WENT TO PICK UP MAYUMI-SAN AFTER SHE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK.
SHE WAS REALLY PRETTY.
WHAT AN UNUSUAL PAIRING...
S-SORRY
CURSE
I CAN'T BREATHE

MANAMI WAS SUPPOSED TO SET UP A MIXER WITH A GROUP OF ELITE MEN.
IF SHE'D HELD THAT MIXER, I'M SURE I WOULD HAVE FOUND A HANDSOME MAN.
YES, I'M SURE OF IT.
BUT ALL BECAUSE YOU WERE THERE...
BECAUSE YOU CAME DRESSED LIKE THAT, I HAD A TERRIBLE TIME.
WHAT?
DOES THIS MEAN THAT IF YOU DISAPPEAR, I'LL BE HAPPY...?
YOUR FAULTY LOGIC IS ENDANGERING MY LIFE.
SHOULD I HAVE GONE DRESSED LIKE I NORMALLY DO?
ARE YOU TRYING TO RUIN MY SOCIAL LIFE?
USE YOUR BRAIN!
THEN THIS TIME WHEN YOU CALL ME,
I PROMISE TO USE MY BRAIN WHEN I GO PICK YOU UP!

SHIRT: ECSTASY
I'LL WEAR THE UNIFORM I RACKED MY BRAINS TO COME UP WITH...!
THAT ONLY USED YOUR CARNAL DE-SIRES!
LINDRESS
I'M RUNNING LATE SINCE I WASTED TIME TALKING ABOUT NOTHING.
HEY.
HUH?
I'M HOME.
SIGH.
I'M TIRED AND HUNGRY.
DINNER'S ALMOST READY.
BY THE WAY, SAYAKA-CHAN.
YOUR MOTHER CALLED LAST NIGHT.

SHE SAID YOU WEREN'T ANSWERING YOUR CELL PHONE.
YOU SHOULDN'T IGNORE HER!
SHE WAS UPSET WHEN I TOLD HER YOU WERE STAYED OUT LAST NIGHT.
I DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER TO KNOW WHAT SHE'S GOING TO SAY.
"COME HOME," RIGHT?
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU HAVEN'T BEEN GOING HOME LATELY.
SUMMER VACATION STARTS NEXT WEEK, RIGHT? WHY NOT SPEND SOME TIME AT HOME?
YOU EVEN LL SPENT NEW YEAR'S HERE
BUT...
I'LL BE GOING HOME FOR THE BON FESTIVAL ANYWAY, SO...
I'LL CALL HER LATER.
PRO-MISE?
YEAH, YEAH.
WELL #9
LET'S HAVE DINNER, THEN.

HUH?
SUMIKO-SAN, ARE YOU USING DIFFERENT MISO?
I GOT THIS FROM MY FRIEND.
DO YOU NOT LIKE IT?
NO, IT'S GOOD.
THE FLAVOR REALLY REMINDS ME OF SOME-THING.
I TRIED BOIL-ING THOSE VEGETABLES DIFFERENTLY, TOO.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THEY'RE GOOD.
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THESE INGREDIENTS...
I LIKE IT.

WOW, REALLY?!
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE EVER PRAISED ME, NABE-CHAN!
PFFFT
TODAY'S CHEF IS TSUNEDA MIHARU-SAN.
I'M YOUR SECRET SURPRISE GUEST.
COUGH COUGH
I USED TO COOK FOR YOU ALL THE TIME.
YOU...
WHY...
COUGH COUGH
YOU LIKE MY COOKING, HUH? I'M SO HAPPY.
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

WHAT'S YOUR DEAL? ARE YOU TRYING TO BECOME AN ON-SITE REPORTER?
BUT...
NABE-CHAN, IT'S YOUR FAULT.
YOU NEVER COME HOME.
WE COULDN'T GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU,
AND YOUR MOM FINALLY GOT PISSED OFF ABOUT IT.
SHE ASKED ME TO CONVINCE YOU TO COME BACK HOME.
DON'T WINK. IT'S ANNOYING.
AND I HAD SOME BUSINESS AT THE KAWAI COMPLEX, TOO.
COME BACK HOME WITH ME, OKAY?
DOESN'T YOUR SUMMER VACATION START NEXT WEEK?
WHAT?
NO WAY! NOW LEAVE!
SHOO SHOO
WHAT? THEN...

I'LL GO PUT THIS UP ON YOUR COLLEGE'S BULLETIN BOARD.
YOUR MOM MADE IT.
THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF WATANABE SAYAKA
CHILDHOOD
MIDDLE SCHOOL
THE MISSING LINK!
YOU DIDN'T COME HERE TO "CONVINCE" ME!
AND I'LL BUY A RABBIT FOR SUMIKO-SAN.
なんで"ウサギ"で…
WHY A RABBIT? BUT I'M KIND OF HAPPY ABOUT THAT!
OH, MY
I'LL LET IT RUN LOOSE IN THE KAWAI COMPLEX.
FINE! YOU WANT ME TO GO HOME, RIGHT?
I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO CONVINCE YOU.
YOU THREATENED ME!
SHE HATES RABBITS MORE THAN ANYTHING
TSUNE-CHAN, WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE AT THE KAWAI COMPLEX?

I WORK AT THE TOWN HALL,
AND WE'RE HOLDING AN EVENT THERE.
IT'S NOT A "CITY PARTY," SO IT'S A "FOREST PARTY!"
WE'RE OUT IN THE COUNTRY, SO THE PLANTS AND RIVERS ARE BEAUTIFUL.
WE'VE GOT LOTS OF CAMPSITES AND COTTAGES, TOO.
TEXT: FOREST PARTY
WE PLAN TO RECRUIT A BUNCH OF MEN AND WOMEN TO HANG OUT AND BARBECUE.
THAT SOUNDS FUN.
AND IT'LL BE GOOD P.R. FOR YOUR VILLAGE'S TOURISM.
I SUG-GESTED IT!
REALLY? THAT'S AMAZING.
RIGHT, SAYAKA-SAN?
I GUESS
IT'S NOT TOO BAD FOR TSUNEKO.
HEH HEH.

THING IS, WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH WOMEN.
YOU CAN COME AS A DECO!
THEY ASKED IF I HAD ANY ACQUAINTANCES WHO MIGHT COME.
AND THAT'S WHEN I REMEMBERED MAYUMI-SAN!
SHE'S REAL PRETTY, SO THE PARTY'S SURE TO BE A BLAST!
I'M SURE ALL THE MEN WILL...
DON'T INVITE MAYUMI-SAN.
WHAT...
IF MAYUMI-SAN GOES TO THAT VILLAGE, SHE'LL ASK EVERYONE ABOUT ME.
WHAT?
UH...
IF YOU INVITE MAYUMI-SAN, I'LL TURN YOUR ROOM INTO A ZOO'S ARTHROPOD EXHIBIT.
EEK!
NOOO!

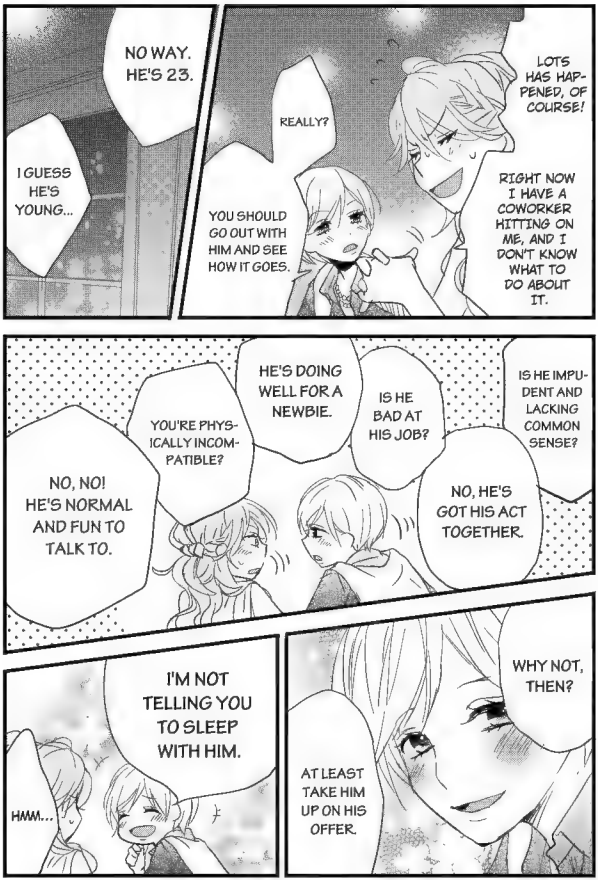
SO,
FOR ENTERTAINMENT AT THE WEDDING...
YOU WANT ME AND MANAMI TO SING?
YOU'RE BOTH SUCH GOOD SINGERS.
EVEN MY FIANCÉ SAID EVERYONE WOULD LOVE IT, SINCE YOU'RE BOTH SO PRETTY.
YOU'RE EXAGGERATING.

ARE PREPARATIONS FOR THE CEREMONY COMING ALONG WELL?
WELL... IT'S A LOT OF WORK.
I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING SIMPLE.
SIGH
BUT HIS PARENTS ARE SO EXCITED...
MY MOTHER-IN-LAW IS SO PROACTIVE, TOO.
I THOUGHT SHE'D BE HAPPY ALL OVER.
AND MY RELATIVES KEEP MAKING SUGGESTIONS.
THE MARRIAGE ISN'T JUST ABOUT US, YOU KNOW...
BUT I GUESS IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE.
THIS MUST BE WHAT THEY CALL THE MARRIAGE BLUES.
I CAN'T AGREE WITH MY FIANCÉ, EITHER.
WE FIGHT A LOT.
AND COMPROMISE.
LATELY..
I'VE BEEN THINKING.

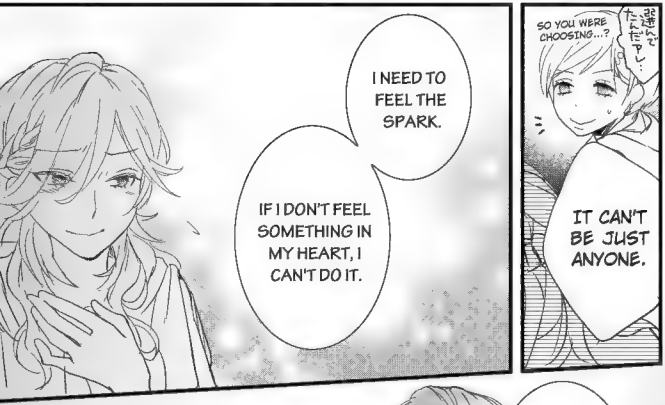
TEXT: NEGATIVE AURA

SHE TURNED IT AROUND.
POSITIVE
勝
THIS IS HOW PEOPLE BECOME A "MARRIED COUPLE"...
I HAVE TO BE UP EARLY TOMORROW, SO I'M HEADING OUT...
LET'S HANG OUT AGAIN SOMETIME
WE'RE GOING OUT TO KARAOKE...
SO WE CAN CHOOSE AND PRACTICE A SONG.
あはは HA HA HA
よろしく
THANKS.
MANAMI.
WANT TO KEEP DRINKING?
SINGING LOVE SONGS IN THIS STATE OF MIND WOULD BE ROUGH.
SOUNDS GOOD.

DAMN THAT KAZUMI
かずみの
ヤツ…
BRAGGING ABOUT HER FIANCÉ…
I'M GLAD SHE SEEMS HAPPY, THOUGH.
いやホントに
やつは
NO, SERIOUSLY
WAIT, WHICH IS IT?
BUT I'LL CELEBRATE (CURSE) WITH YOU!
DAMN IT! I'LL CELEBRATE (CURSE) HER MARRIAGE!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE JUST PLAYING ALONG…
AND YOU AND YOUR BOYFRIEND ARE ACTUALLY LOVEY-DOVEY?
I'LL CURSE (CURSE) YOU.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
WE BROKE UP THIS SPRING.
WHAT…
R-REALLY? I GUESS I SHOULD APOLOGIZE…
HAPPY
I LIKE THE WAY YOU CAN'T KEEP UP APPEARANCES.
BUT I STILL WANT TO HIT YOU.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MAYUMI?
DON'T TELL ME YOU DON'T HAVE ANY NEW FLINGS TO TELL ME ABOUT.
URGH!


NO WAY. HE'S 23.
I GUESS HE'S YOUNG...
REALLY?
YOU SHOULD GO OUT WITH HIM AND SEE HOW IT GOES.
LOTS HAS HAPPENED, OF COURSE!
RIGHT NOW I HAVE A COWORKER HITTING ON ME, AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT.
NO, NO! HE'S NORMAL AND FUN TO TALK TO.
YOU'RE PHYSICALLY INCOMPATIBLE?
HE'S DOING WELL FOR A NEWBIE.
IS HE BAD AT HIS JOB?
IS HE IMPUDENT AND LACKING COMMON SENSE?
NO, HE'S GOT HIS ACT TOGETHER.
HMM...
I'M NOT TELLING YOU TO SLEEP WITH HIM.
AT LEAST TAKE HIM UP ON HIS OFFER.
WHY NOT, THEN?

MAYUMI, HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN SO STUBBORN AND PRUDENT?
WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER, YOU CASUALLY ACCEPTED ALL COMERS.
NO I DIDN'T!
I ONLY DATED GUYS WHO I FELT A CONNEC-TION TO!


I NEED TO FEEL THE SPARK.
IF I DON'T FEEL SOMETHING IN MY HEART, I CAN'T DO IT.
SO YOU WERE CHOOSING...?
IT CAN'T BE JUST ANYONE.

I KNOW I SHOULD BE MORE EASY-GOING ABOUT IT, THOUGH.
MA-YUMI...

BAHAHAHAHA
ぶっはははは
WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING?!
WHO WOULDN'T LAUGH? A "SPARK?"
I HAVEN'T HEARD THAT IN A WHILE
HA HA HA HA
MAYUMI...
YOU'RE STILL AS PURE AS YOU WERE IN SCHOOL.

THAT'S NOT A COMPLI-MENT.
ST...
STOP...
YOU HAVE MORE EXPERIENCE THAN YOU'LL EVER NEED.
BUT YOU HAVE A VIRGIN'S PHILOSOPHY WHEN IT COMES TO LOVE.
YOU'RE BAD NEWS, MAYUMI.
MY EXPER-IENCES WEREN'T MEANING-LESS!
REALLY? THEN...
DID ANYBODY WHO MADE YOU FEEL A SPARK TURN OUT TO BE A GOOD CATCH?
ULP
ラブ
MAYUMI, DO YOU EVER GO TO MARRIAGE-HUNTING PARTIES?
YOU'LL FIND MORE MEN THERE INTERESTED IN SERIOUS RELATION-SHIPS THAN AT RANDOM MIXERS.
MARRIAGE-HUNTING... IT SOUNDS DESPERATE, DOESN'T IT?
IT'S NOT THAT I WANT TO GET MARRIED.

BY THE WAY, SPEAKING OF MARRIAGE-HUNTING...
RUSTLE
ごそ…

I WANT TO MEET THE WORLD'S GREATEST MAN, BE LOVED SINGLE-MINDEDLY BY HIM, AND THEN MARRIAGE COMES AT THE END OF THAT. I'M JUST LOOKING FOR THE PLACE WHERE I CAN MEET HIM.
WHAT WOULD YOU CALL THAT, IF NOT "DESPERATE"?

TEXT: FOREST PARTY
HEY.
YOU DIDN'T TELL HER YOU WERE COMING?
ISN'T THAT YOU, TSUNEKO?
GOOD, KEEP DOING THAT
MAYUMI-SAN, YOU'RE GOING OUT?
I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME...
SO IT'S AN OUTDOOR MARRIAGE-HUNTING PARTY.
YEAH.
A "FOREST PARTY?"
BEFORE I CAME OUT TO DRINK,
I RAN INTO A FRIEND OF ONE OF THE APART-MENT RESI-DENTS.

I ACCEPTED A FLIER, BUT...
I WAS IN A GOOD MOOD, SO...
THIS RIVER IS BEAUTIFUL.
IT'S FREE, OF COURSE, AND I'LL FIND SOMEWHERE FOR YOU TO STAY
YOU CAN JUST BE A DECOY, BUT WILL YOU COME?
THE PARTY WILL BE MORE FUN AND LIVELY WITH PRETTY LADIES.
I'M SURE IT'S SOOTHING...
LATELY, I'VE BEEN SO WORN OUT FROM WORK.
LET'S GO TOGETHER.
WHAT?!
YOU CAN REGISTER USING A SMARTPHONE.
BUT I...
OH, I GET IT.
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE LESS POPULAR THAN ME.

TEXT: YOUR ENTRY HAS BEEN REGISTERED